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Contact: Americo Casiano Jr.

Phone: 718-931-9500 x19

Fax: 718-409-6445

Web: www.bronxarts.org

E-Mail: Americo@bronxarts.org

Bronx Council on the Arts Reschedules Award Presentation to March 2, 2011

(Bronx, NY – February 11, 2011) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) has re-scheduled its award presentation reception (originally slated for February 2nd) to March 2nd at 5:00pm at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College (450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street) in conjunction with that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley. The February 2nd ceremony was canceled due that day's hazardous weather conditions.

On March 2nd BCA will award \$167,550 to 70 local recipients of three re-grant programs: NYS Council on the Arts' Decentralization Program, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Greater New York Arts Development Fund, and the JPMorgan Chase Program Management Initiative Grant. The ceremony will be attended by representatives of recipient organizations, artists, local legislators, as well as representatives of the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, JPMorgan Chase and members of BCA's Board of Directors.

The Decentralization Funds or Community Arts Grant is open to Bronx arts organizations and community-based organizations that utilize the arts to help fulfill their missions. **35 Bronx organizations received this year's award totaling \$66,150.** **Bronx Arts Organizations** (22) are: Bardekova Ensemble, Blind Beggar Press, Bronx Children's Museum, Bronx Concert Singers, Inc., Bronx Stage & Film, Bronx Symphony Orchestra, BronxNet, Center Stage Community Playhouse Inc, CENTRO CULTURAL Y EDUCATIVO, EL MAESTRO, City Island Historical Society, City Island Theater Group, D.A.N.C.E., Drammeh Institute, Inc., Garces Puppeteria, Jessica Danser/dansfolk, New York Kids Theatrical Alliance, Orchestra of The Bronx, Parkchester Chorus, Papatian, Riverdale Choral Society, Sinfonietta of Riverdale, and Society of Unique Artists, Inc. **Bronx Community-Based Organizations** (non-arts organizations) (13) are: Beth Abraham Health Services, Brainpower Research and Development Services, Inc., Bronx River Alliance, Inc., BronxWorks, Concourse House, HDFC, Friends of Pelham Bay Park, Friends of The Woodlawn Cemetery, Hope of Israel Senior Citizens Center, Inc, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Kingsbridge Hts. Neighborhood Improve Assoc, Inc., Knox Gates Neighborhood Association, Riverdale Community Center, Inc., and SCAN-New York Volunteer Parent-Aides Association, Inc.

The DCA Greater New York Arts Development Funds are open to Bronx-based artists and arts organizations with organizational budgets under \$100,000 who do not receive direct funding from DCA and provide arts activities to borough residents. **25 artists and arts organizations received this year's award totaling \$51,400.** **Individual Artists** (21) are: Andrew Geddis, Christian Diaz, Christopher Flick, Dalia Davi, David Valentin, Dennis Redmoon Darkeem, Freddy E. Sepulveda, Hatuey Ramos-Fermin, Hilda Rivera-Pantojas, Ira Merritt, Jessica Danser-Schwarz, Kalpulli Huehuetlahtolli, Kevin Kane, Linda Cunningham, Marcos Napa, Militeri Tucker, Nancy Benignus, Nicholas (Nicky) Marrero, Jr., Ray Felix, Ray Martinez, and Vivian Vazquez. **Arts Organizations** (4) are: Bronx Concert Singers, Inc., Garces Puppeteria, One World Arts, Inc., and Sinfonietta of Riverdale, Inc.

The JPMorgan Chase Program Management Initiative is a program management grant available by invitation only. Given the current economic situation and the cuts to public funding, local arts organization are finding it difficult to manage their programs. Funds are generally provided for programming but not for its management. The focus of this BCA initiative is to address the "back-office" needs of program management and related technology, marketing, and staffing expenses. The Bronx Council on the Arts designed the initiative to upgrade the project management capabilities of arts organizations while alleviating the financial pressure to successfully realize their artistic goals. In the end, successful endeavors will facilitate the successful delivery of arts programming on a community level.

This year, BCA invited twelve arts organizations to apply for funding. Eleven of the invitees received awards totaling \$50,000. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. **2011 recipients are:** Bartow Pell Mansion Museum, Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance, The Bronx Opera, Center Stage Community Playhouse, Derfner Judaica Museum, En Foco, Inc., Inspirit: a dance company, Literary Freedom Project, Inc., Mass Transit Theatre and Video, Inc., NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble, Inc., and One World Arts, Inc.

Each year BCA provides artists and organizations the opportunity to apply for funds serving a variety of purposes. These funds are charged with fostering the continuing development of local cultural resources responsive to community needs. Applications for the 2011-2012 grants will be available from the Bronx Council on the Arts beginning July. For more information on BCA and its entire grant programs, please visit the grants pages on BCA's website at www.bronxarts.org.

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